

**RAVENNA PARK-CREEK DAY-LIGHTING
COMMUNITY MEETING #1**

March 14, 2002

6:30 - 8:30 pm

MINUTES

Agenda

- Welcome and introduction by Virginia Hassinger, Sr. Capital Project Coordinator, Seattle Parks and Recreation
- Introductions of City staff present, roles different people played, and ground rules to assist with the deliberations-Milenko Matanovic, facilitator
- Goals of Workshop #1 were to:
 - Explain Context-Background & Site
 - Receive Input
 - Recruit Future Involvement
- Context
 - Site: Peggy Gaynor, Katie Walter, and Ken Nilsen
 - Wetlands
 - Soil, Light
 - Ball Fields
 - Stream
 - Street Connection
 - Amenities
 - Preliminary Design Options: Peggy
 - Planning Process: Peggy and Milenko
 - Background-history of the Park and its watershed - Virginia Hassinger
 - Questions & Answers to clarify Context issues
- Input: Milenko asked each participant for ideas, solutions and concerns
- Next Steps: review of future meetings

Ideas, Solutions and Concerns as identified by all participants:

(transcribed from notes written during workshop on 2 flip charts)

Wetlands and Habitat

- Use funds to restore existing wetlands by existing bridge
- Incorporate enhancement at wetlands near ex. bridge; address safety issues & built in educational opportunities
- Keep existing channel, if abandoned, for habitat
- Conduct an inventory of park-its birds, plants, etc.; has this been done?
- Control invasive vegetation and degradation of habitat
- Leave park feeling wild
- Incorporate wetland-habitat and safety

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Athletic Fields

- Soccer field layout-stay off baseball infield if possible
- Soccer field overlaps baseball outfield-baseball fences are a problem
- Consider using portable fences to allow for both baseball and soccer
- Move ball field for full stream enhancement
- Have baseball facing south
- Little League excited about reopening of field several years ago but a better entrance is needed
- Soccer turns baseball infield into mud
- Soccer fields are badly needed in the city; the loss of one field is not an option
- Accommodate playfields somewhere else in park; consider other areas in park for soccer
- Turn ball-fields so the outfield faces NW 55th Street
- Cowen Park is too small and wet for fields
- Cut slope to west and fill fields to gain more field area

Design recommendations

- Have "wild" feeling in park; keep trails "wild" looking
- Open entrance to park from street; games, when seen from the street, are inviting and encourage safety
- Have dramatic stream-oriented entrance near the road, 55th
- "Field is so hidden" from 55th-more presence
- Footbridges over creek
- Bring atmosphere
- Have a more complex channel at upper reach
- Provide vantage/access points into the stream
- Use existing knolls to provide creek channel diversity
- Keep creek to east (soccer rep and others)
- Wide path for joggers and two-way; barriers along path to keep dogs out of stream

Stream slope

- Have change in slope angles
- Keep wider channel-slopes only, no walls-lead to diverse fauna (wider floodplain)
- Boardwalk access to the stream
- Keep gentle channel slopes
- Insure slope stability
- Vary stream profiles and sections

Amenities

- Need open vista into site from 55th
- Combine daylighting with new entrance from 55th

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- "Riverbed entrance"
- Do more interpretive signage
- Natural organic design at entrance to pipe (55th)
- Have art extend upstream and downstream-holistic

Creek

- Increase capacity of channel by extending improvements up to Cowen Park
- Is onsite detention possible?
- Make sure the creek functions when flows increase to 5 cfs
- Box culvert must be able to handle high flows
- Entrance controls and organizes path to stream and fields; entrance consists of stream, paths and fields
- Limited access to creek with more active use and accessible at downstream end (55th)
- Public safety-maintain open area; limit vegetation
- 5 cfs has to be respected-divert access; catch water upstream
- Water flow was 3.5 cfs on 3/12, after rains
- Do not fill existing creek bed (if abandon)
- More complex channel through the gulch; more ravine-like lower
- Raise stream up-make wider
- Raise fields- make creek deeper
- Create marshy areas; help limit access to creek
- Keep stream as close to east side of field as possible

Trail

- Trail-not wide enough; need wide trail in places
- Put barrier between path and creek to discourage creek access by people and dogs
- Entrance directs to paths; clear direction of foot traffic to along creek and to fields
- Opportunity at lower end: points where can access "harder system" or a more urban creek section with harder edges and elements, available for lots of use and access by kids and dogs
- Provide special access to the creek with boardwalks
- Walk into creek and wetlands on stones
- Path made out of more "wild" material; not paved

Overall design

- Clarify construction estimate
- Utilize areas of existing knolls for stream diversity and overlooks
- Artwork should reach from the community into park-"holistic art"
- Protect native vegetation-take care of invasives with project
- Pay attention to safety-open area vs. darker

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Coordination w/ other projects

- Art project at Green Lake/Roosevelt P&R Lot - an opportunity to coordinate with that project
- Work with ongoing student projects and other volunteer efforts in park

Post suggestions on RCA website: home.earthlink.net/~ravennacreek

For more information on the project go to: www.ci.seattle.wa.us